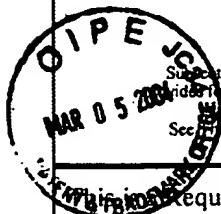


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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Submission (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number

842,234

Filing Date

April 26, 2001

First Named Inventor

K. NAKAYAMA et al.

Group Art Unit

1624

Examiner Name

Rao

Attorney Docket Number

P20938

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114**a. ☐ Previously submitted**

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Request for Extension of Time
- v. ☒ Other PTO-1449 Form and References cited.

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed
- b. ☒ If payment in the appropriate amount is not enclosed, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this paper, including the RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e), any extension of time fees (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) necessary to render the RCE timely, and any suspension fee or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-0089

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Bruce H. Bernstein	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	29,027 33,087
Signature		Date	3/5/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Mail Stop RCE, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	
Signature	Date

Match and Return